

Health Care Quality and Cost Council Committee Report

Committee Name: End of Life Sub-Committee

Committee Chair: Jim Conway

Date: December 17, 2008

1. Status of items referred to the Committee by the Council
 - a. No new items referred to Committee
2. Committee recommendations to the Council
 - a. No updates since 11/18/2008
3. Committee accomplishments / acknowledgements
 - a. Under the leadership of Andy Epstein and Ruth Palombo, the MOLST initiative is well organized, consisting of broad-based healthcare and community stakeholders, and with a disciplined steering committee and work groups focus not only on demonstration projects but with an eye to full statewide implementation
 - i. Funding recently received from Commonwealth Medicine / MassHealth to support a Worcester area demonstration project
 - ii. Full proposal invited and submitted to The Kenneth B. Schwartz Center for a North Shore demonstration project
 - b. Active discussions with DHCFP, Rand, and the Cost Containment Committee on the significant potential of improved palliative and end of life care on reducing healthcare costs.
 - c. Media stories released and under development on End of Life in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the focus of the Quality and Cost Council
4. Progress on meeting FY08 Council recommendations
 - a. No further material updates since 11/18/2008 except as noted above.
5. Next Steps
 - a. Next EOL Meeting on January 7, 2009
 - b. Advance discussions around
 - i. Campaign
 - ii. Measurement of presence of formal hospice and palliative care programs and affiliations
 - iii. Performance measurement benchmarks
 - iv. Education expectations of clinical professionals